

ANTELOPE VALLEY WRAPS UP ANOTHER SUMMER STAGE 1-FREE

Chalk up another summer of clean air for the Antelope Valley: for the 11th consecutive year, not a single Stage 1 smog episode occurred anywhere within the AVAPCD's boundaries.

A Stage 1 episode is declared when ozone levels average .20 parts per million (ppm) for an hour, thus rendering air quality unhealthful. The highest ozone level recorded locally during the 2000 ozone season - which spanned from May to October - was .14 ppm, measured at the AVAPCD's monitoring site in Lancaster.

Exceedances of the federal and state ozone standards also reflected a long-term trend of air quality improvements during the summer of 2000. This year, only two exceedances of the federal .12 ppm 1-hour standard were recorded within the AVAPCD. Although this summer's high temperatures contributed to a slight increase in federal exceedances from last summer - none were recorded during 1999 - the Antelope Valley's end-of-season total represents a 71% reduction from a decade ago, when 7 days exceeded the federal standard District-wide.

Not surprisingly, the air breathed by Antelope Valley residents also compared favorably with that breathed by residents of the nearby South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) this summer. As of October 26, 40 federal ozone exceedances had been logged within the SCAQMD's boundaries, which include the urban portions of Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside Counties.

Meanwhile, 35 exceedances of the more stringent .09 ppm state ozone standard were recorded in the AVAPCD this summer. This represents a 33% reduction from the 52 state exceedances logged District-wide in 1990.

According to Chuck Fryxell, Air Pollution Control Officer for the AVAPCD, the Antelope Valley's air quality progress is expected to continue into the new millennium. "Now that Stage 1 episodes are virtually nonexistent in the Antelope Valley, the AVAPCD is focused on continuing to partner with local industry and the public to make smog a thing of the past," commented Fryxell.